'weight Champ

foundation of New Testament
ity is being destroyed." Evange-
James Hargis bellowed into the
he Fourth Annual National Con-
of his anti-Communist Christian
last week in Tulsa. "God is being
from every quarter. Although life
ommunism would mean the aboli-
vorship, certain socialistic clergy-
the U.S. are propagandizing for
l disarmament and ultimately
overnment including the Commu-
ons."

udience loved it (although several
g ladies walked out when, dur-
equent speeches, Columnist West-
egier began to tell how the once
ded" in the course of some jour-
duties). Up between each of the
popped Hargis. "Friends, I want
arry as many of these books home
can," he said, waving a copy of his
nist America . . . Must It Be?
s 15 chapters, 200 pages, and
four for a dollar. Now a lot of you
say you can't afford this anti-
mist literature. Now this is four
ollar." Another time: "The Chris-
usade hotel is now open at the foot
s Peak. Now it's just two for six
a day, and children under twelve
e." Finally: "How many of you
here yesterday? Oh-h-h-h—I'm
o have to take another offering."

h & Politics. Among American
lists, Billy Graham earned national
for the sincerity of his gripping,
entered oratory, and Tulsa's Oral
s for his emotional faith-healing
s; Billy James Hargis has made his
with a blatant melding of funda-
list faith to extreme right-wing poli-
ge 37, he stands a shade under six
ut weighs almost 275 lbs., in rolls of
t start at his jowls and balloon into
phant-sized waistline. Except when
drumming up donations, Billy James
is deadly serious onstage—but he
eless lays the serious cause of anti-
nunism open to ridicule.

gis (*g* as in give) came from a
ly religious family. His father, a
-a-day truck driver during the De-
on, was an elder in Texarkana's Rose
Christian Church. Hargis recalls that
first promise I made was to read the
all the way through every year. But
en't had time recently to continue
After graduating from high school,
is got a job in a defense plant, earned
gh money in six months to quit and
the Ozark Bible College at Benton-
Ark., in 1943. "I stayed a year and
lf," he says. "Frankly, I left because
t like I knew everything."

e was ordained a preacher in the Dis-
s of Christ at the age of 17, and,
the encouragement of one of his Bi-
College teachers, began to tour the
hwest, preaching at revival meetings.
said I had promotional ability," Hargis says. "That's all evangelism is—promotional ability." Promotional ability earned Hargis four pastorates, but he soon gave up the ministry to work full time as a radio preacher.

Better than Healing. Hargis had relatively little following outside Tulsa until 1954, when a sharp-eyed advertising executive named L. E. ("Pete") White, who had successfully publicized the booming career of Oral Roberts, took an interest. White finds that the anti-Communist angle which Hargis uses is better than either straight evangelism or faith healing. "Radio evangelists probably get less than a dollar a letter," says White: "A lot of those people write in for help without any contribution at all. Anti-Communism is not as big in volume as either healing or evangelism, but the donations run between two and four dollars."

Hargis was dropped from the Disciples of Christ ministerial roll in 1957, does not preach in any church now. He appears via film and tape on 141 radio and 24 television stations, and spends 20 days each month speaking on tours through the South and Midwest. Says he: "I always worry when I give a sermon and the offerings are not up to standard. I ask myself, 'Where did I fail?' " But he is usually able to keep up standards; last year Hargis' crusade took in nearly $1,000,000.

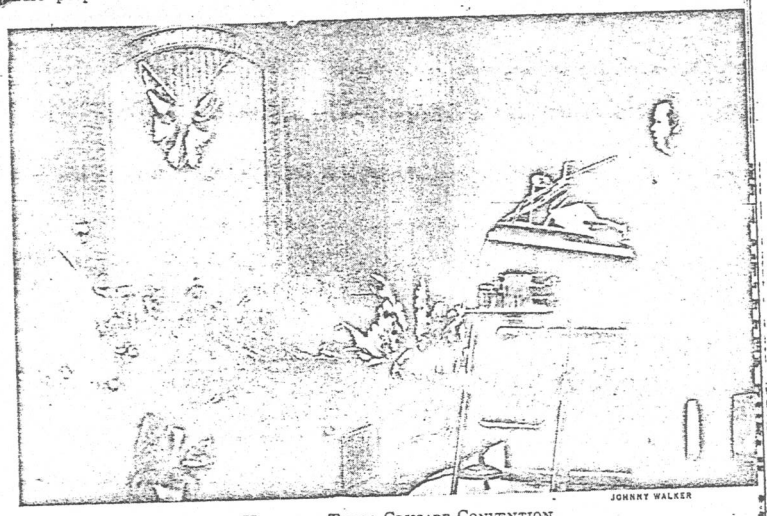
The Supreme Being: Man

The Renaissance "Humanist" was a foe of medieval scholastic philosophy, an admirer of the Greek and Latin classics. Now Humanist means a believer in an ethical nonreligion, in which the Supreme Being is man, and prayer is "a telephone conversation with no one at the other end." To Humanists, God is a bundling up man with bills at many stores might consolidate his debts with a bank loan so as to owe only the bank. Humanists reject both consolidations as equally delusive.

Contemporary Humanism is catching on. Last week, at the Third Congress of the International Humanist and Ethical Union in Oslo, 400 sober-minded Humanists were on hand, representing more than 300,000 of their fellow believers in 24 countries. Although West Germany subsidizes some Humanist organizations, and The Netherlands allows them to have their own army chaplains, Humanist societies are generally denied the recognition that governments accord to religious groups. But what they lack in privilege, the Humanists make up in prestige: the ranks of the American Humanist Association are heavy with scientists and intellectuals, and the international union boasts such influential leaders as British Biologist Julian Huxley and two Nobel prizewinners, British Agriculturist Lord Boyd Orr and U.S. Geneticist Hermann Muller.

From Atheists to Agnostics. Chief purpose of the Oslo congress was a discussion of long-range Humanist goals, and talk at the six-day session centered on the problem of how to develop a mature (meaning nonreligious) personality, and how Humanists could help preserve individual freedom in an overorganized world. The socially conscious delegates also thought about goals closer to hand, passed a resolution approving the anti-hunger work of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization as "a notable example of Humanist action." To abet the work of FAO, Humanists of the world were urged to work for better birth-control campaigns at home, and for the industrialization of underdeveloped nations.

Delegates ranged from dedicated atheists to questioning agnostics eager to cooper-



JOHNNY WALKER

PREACHER HARGIS AT TULSA CRUSADE CONVENTION
"Oh-h-h-h—I'm going to have to take another offering."

which is the mirage—the corrupted, [illegible]
America which Doctor Hargis has described or the seem-
ingly strong, free and prosperous land which they see
around them.

Their confusion is understandable. Doctor Hargis
fights Communism as his evangelistic forebears fought
sin—by detecting its presence everywhere and by calling
down damnation upon all those who knowingly or un-
knowingly do the devil's work. By applying the stern
disciplines of fundamentalist religion to political and
social attitudes, he is able to prophesy destruction for a
country which does not completely accept his conserva-
tive political views. He is also able to assail liberals and

Hargis at his recent "Anti-Communist Leadership School" in Tulsa; evangelist urged his audience to educate themselves about the C. through such authoritative sources as his books, recorded [illegible]

Photographs by Bill Shrout